

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	General Conditions and Industries in Bytom	DATE DISTR.	9 June 1953
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Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The town of Bytom (Beuthen) has approximately 150,000 inhabitants, of whom 60 per cent are former German citizens who chose Polish citizenship. Most of them take no active part in political life. Another 30 per cent are Poles from Lvov and the USSR, who were forcibly resettled by the Soviets. They do not officially join the Communists, because they are afraid the "real" Poles will take vengeance on them when Soviet influence declines.
2. Miners and iron workers grumble at low wages and hard work. The weekly meat ration for a heavy industry worker is 400 gr., and his family receives almost no meat at all. Average wages in these trades is 600 zloty per month, and prices on the free market are: meat, 26 zloty per kilo; sausage, 30 zloty per kilo; and butter, 48 zloty per kilo. There are always long queues outside the government stores, but people often go home empty handed.
3. The output of the mines has decreased because of the poor physical condition of the workers. Attempts were made to bring soldiers and prisoners to the mines, but their lack of experience caused many fatal accidents. Prisoners are usually willing to work in the mines, because their sentence is then reduced by half.
4. During working hours employees are allowed to be outside their places of work only if they are in possession of a permit. Only official journeys can be made from one town to another.
5. Each group of three apartment houses has a political controller whose business it is to check on the opinions and activities of the residents.
6. A number of arrests have been made recently, including the following:

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE Ev	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC		ORR Ev	x		
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- a. The manager of a meat depot was sentenced for sabotage because 20 tons of bacon spoiled in cold storage. It is believed that workers had deliberately poured some fluid over the bacon because it had not been distributed.
 - b. A mining engineer was sentenced to five years after discussing a BBC broadcast.
 - c. A mess officer in the army was sentenced to five years for saying that he had been better off before the war.
 - d. A number of farmers have been sentenced to four years in prison and to fines of 10,000 zloty for failure to deliver their quota of milk, meat, or cereals. If they cannot pay the fine, their property is confiscated, and they are forced to join a collective farm.
7. A large canning factory has been built at Bytom to process pork, beef, and veal. It employs 6,000 workers in three shifts, and its entire production is stockpiled for the army in caches excavated in the mountains. There are caches of this type in the vicinity of Karpacz (Krummhuebel - 051/G 67), Glucholazy (Ziegenhals - P51/H 83), Starska Polember¹, and other places near the Czech frontier.
8. New roads have been built from Skiakora (sic) to Sosnowiec and to the coal industry district to facilitate transportation.
9. The following personalities are known:
- a. Lux, (fnu), manager of state restaurants at Bytom [redacted]
 - b. Pasternak, (fnu), manager of the government stores at Bytom [redacted]
 1. [redacted]

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